

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe and claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

Claims 1, 3-10, 13-16, and 20 remain in this application. Claims 2, 11, 12, 17-19, and 19 have been canceled. Claims 21 and 22 have been added.

Claims 3-7, 10, 16, 18 and 20 have been withdrawn from allowance.

Applicant submits the enclosed copy of the certified priority document herewith, as requested by the Examiner which was previously submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on August 29, 2000. Also enclosed is a copy of the date stamped return postcard.

The Examiner objected to the drawings because the specification does not describe reference numbers 21 and 23 of Figure 3. The specification has been amended to add the reference numbers without adding any new matter, making the objection to the drawings moot. Accordingly, no amended drawings have been provided.

The Examiner objected to the title and provided a recommended title. Applicant has adopted the Examiner's recommended title in amendments to the specification, making the objection moot.

Claims 1, 3-10, 13-16, 18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Barber *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,471,518). For the following reasons, the rejection is respectfully traversed:

Claim 1, as amended, recites that:

said information managing portion associates a management number with each stored value of the information item, with a *different management number indicating an update* of the stored value compared to the management number of the previously stored value, wherein the information managing portion utilizes the management number to select the updated value of the information item stored in the nonvolatile storage medium...

(emphasis added). The cited reference does not teach the use of a “different management number” to indicate an update of the stored value, as recited in the claim.

Instead, the Barber reference clearly teaches that when a stored value is updated, the same tag number is used for the update as had been used for the previously stored value (see col. 5, lines 1-11). There is no teaching to use a different number for the tag. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over the reference.

Claims 8 and 9, which depend on claim 1, are thus patentable over Barber for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 3 recites the use of both a volatile and nonvolatile memory, wherein “said information managing portion stores *identical information* into the nonvolatile storage medium and the volatile storage medium” (emphasis added). This is not taught by the Barber reference, and thus claim 3 is patentable over Barber.

The Examiner states that column 3, lines 49-58 and col. 4, lines 39-60 teach this element of the claim. However, a close reading of those sections does not support the Examiner’s assertion.

The col. 3 referenced section merely discusses RAM access. There is no teaching that identical information be stored in both volatile and nonvolatile memory. The col. 4

referenced section merely discusses the difference between using RAM and flash memory.

Again, there is no teaching that identical information be stored in both volatile and nonvolatile memory.

Furthermore, claim 3 also recites that “said information managing portion then *compares* the identical information stored in both the nonvolatile storing medium and the volatile storage medium *for consistency* during an initial state” (emphasis added). Barber does not teach any such comparison. Claim 3 also recites that “said information managing portion retrieves the information stored in the nonvolatile storage medium if the information stored in the volatile storage medium is not consistent with the information stored in the nonvolatile storage medium”. Again, Barber does not teach any such process.

The Examiner cites col. 4, line 48 to col. 5, line 30 as teaching these limitations of claim 3. However, a close reading of those sections does not support the Examiner’s assertion. There is no teaching at all that data in RAM be compared to data in the flash memory, and that the flash memory data is retrieved if there is an inconsistency. Thus, claim 3 is further patentable over Barber for this reason as well.

Claims 4-7, and 10, which depend, directly or indirectly, on claim 3, are thus patentable over Barber for at least the same reason as claim 3.

Claim 16 recites that:

said information managing portion stores a value of an information item in the nonvolatile storage medium at *regular time intervals* by cycling through the plurality of memory areas such that each of said plurality of memory areas has a value of the information item stored therein, with each of the values being *temporally shifted* when compared to each other...

(emphasis added). The Examiner has failed to indicate where Barber supposedly teaches these elements of claim 16, and applicant has failed to find such a teaching, thus claim 16 is patentable over the reference. Claims 13-15, which depend on claim 16, are thus patentable over the reference for at least the same reasons as claim 16.

Claim 20 recites a method having a step of “associating a second management number with said updated value, said first management number chosen to be different than said second management number”. As discussed for claim 1, Barber teaches that the tag for the updated value is the same as the tag for the previously stored value. Hence, claim 20 is patentable over the reference for the same reason as claim 1.

New claim 21 recites a step of “incrementing or decrementing the value of said first management number as a second management number” and new claim 22 recites that “said information managing portion associates a different management number with each one of said plurality of values of the information item concurrently stored”. Neither is taught by Barber, and thus claims 21 and 22 are patentable over the reference.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

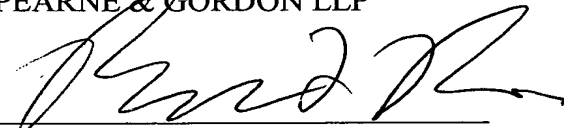
Appl. No. 09/630,584
Amdt. Dated November 2, 2004
Reply to Office action of August 2, 2004

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 32857.

Respectfully submitted,

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